

Ser. No. 10/725,165

Amendments to the Drawings

Please replace the existing drawing sheet and figure with the attached drawing sheet and figure.

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Remarks

Claims 1-23 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 3-6, 9-11, 15-18, and 21-23 were rejected. Claims 12-14 were withdrawn. Claims 2, 7, 8, 19, and 20 were merely objected to and no claims were allowed. By the foregoing amendment, no claims are canceled, claims 1 and 10 are amended, and claim 24 is added. No new matter is presented.

Interview Summary

Applicant appreciates the courtesy of a telephone interview February 15, 2006 between the undersigned and Examiner Thomas Hannon. Claims 1, 10, and 11 were discussed. The undersigned proposed amendments to claims 1 and 10 to identify the axis of rotation and identify that the longitudinal direction is relative to said axis. No agreement was reached.

By the foregoing amendment, such amendments have been effected. In a final review of the specification, it was realized that the text failed to identify the axis 500 and transverse centerplane 502 called out in the as-filed drawings. Accordingly, the specification has been correspondingly amended. Additionally, a typographical error on page 3 has been corrected.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2, 7, 8, 19, and 20.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 102

Claim 1, 3-6, 10 and 11 are rejected as being anticipated by Andler et al. (US6139191). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Andler et al. discloses a circumferentially (not longitudinally) varying lubricant concentration. Although it was believed inherent in the term "longitudinal" the foregoing amendment clarifies longitudinal as relating to the axis of rotation rather than a circumferential direction.

Regarding claim 10, the Office action requested that Applicant:

show why the claim language properly invokes 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph; identify the function; identify the corresponding structure; and amend the specification to explicitly stat [sic] what structure corresponds to the recited

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function with reference to the claimed terms and phrases, provided no new matter is introduced. See 37CFR 1.175(d)(1).

Claim 10 uses the term "means" without sufficient structural reference to effect the function. Accordingly, 112(6) is properly invoked. The identified function is providing extended operation after a lubricant loss. The structure that performs the function is localized higher-than-normal solid lubricant concentrations. These are identified in the final paragraph of page 3 of the specification. New claim 24 includes a further refinement of the recited function supported by said paragraph.

Claims Rejections-35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 9, 15-18, and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andler et al. in view of McCreary (US4719918). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

McCreary was cited as disclosing "a bushing and journal pin assembly for a geared turbofan transmission..." Office action, page 2, final paragraph. However, McCreary relates to a turbocharger. However, the admitted prior art cited in the present application may serve the purposes for which McCreary is cited. Nevertheless, there is no suggestion for the proposed combination. Furthermore, the proposed combination fails to suggest the claimed invention for the same reasons that Ander et al. does not disclose the claimed invention of claims 1, 3-6, 10, and 11 as noted above.

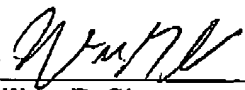
The Drawings

The attached replacement sheet formalizes the as-filed drawings and does not make substantive changes.

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Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-24 are in condition for allowance. Please charge any fees or deficiency or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account of record.


Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 13, 2006

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted this 13th day of March, 2006 to the USPTO, at Fax No. 1-571-273-8300.


Antoinette Sullo